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trade area (NAFTA). We reaffirmed our commitment to reaching a sound NAFTA agreement as soon as possible. Let me just say a word about the importance of this historic undertaking.

We live in a global economy. The fastest growing sector of the American economy today is our export sector, and Mexico is the fastest growing market for U.S. exports in the world. U.S. merchandise exports to Mexico have increased 22 percent per year for each of the last 5 years, twice as fast as U.S. exports worldwide. Having added over 300,000 new jobs to our economy since 1986, we now have over 600,000 total U.S. jobs built on our exports to Mexico. California alone exported \$5.5 billion in goods and services to Mexico last year. Virtually every State has shared in that growth, not just States on the border. Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania are among the top 10 exporters to Mexico along with California, Texas, and Arizona.

By building together the largest free trad-

ing region in the world, Mexico, the United States, and Canada are working to ensure that the future will bring increased prosperity, trade, and new jobs for the citizens of each of our countries. Because our trade ministers and their teams have made impressive progress in recent weeks, we agreed that our meeting today marks the beginning of the final stage of negotiations. In the spirit of this evening's All-Star Game, we are entering the top of the ninth inning of negotiations. President Salinas and I have instructed our trade ministers to meet on July 25 to bring this final stage of negotiations to an early and successful conclusion. We have consulted with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney, and he has similarly instructed his trade minister.

We also agreed on the importance of pressing ahead with parallel efforts to assure that the NAFTA enhances environmental quality and that labor issues are addressed effectively.

Nomination of John Cameron Monjo To Be United States Ambassador to Pakistan

July 14, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate John Cameron Monjo, of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He would succeed Nicholas Platt.

Since 1989 Ambassador Monjo has served as Ambassador to Indonesia. Prior to this he served as Ambassador to Malaysia, 1987–89. He has held several positions at the Department of State, including Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 1985–87; Deputy Assistant Sec-

retary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 1983–85; Deputy Chief of Mission in Jakarta, Indonesia, 1982–83; Deputy Chief of Mission in Seoul, Korea, 1979–82; and country director for East Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Office of Philippine Affairs, 1978–79.

Ambassador Monjo graduated from the University of Pennsylvania (B.A., 1953). He served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1956. He was born July 17, 1931, in Stamford, CT. Ambassador Monjo is married, has two children, and resides in Washington, DC.